

I am a retired Government employee that worked for the Defense Department for more than forty years and have been following some of the recent internet correspondence concerning the XM/Sirius merger.

It is obvious that the National Association of Broadcasters (NAB) have, through their lobbyists, a number of so-called bi-partisan Congressmen in their pockets. It is evident that the NAB fears that the competition resulting from the merger of XM and Sirius would adversely affect their pocketbooks. They suggest that a monopoly would be created. Yet other sources indicate that there are many existing competing products that would continue to provide a competitive atmosphere. This would be particularly true with advances in technology in the future.

Perhaps the most interesting and applicable correspondence that I have read was generated by your former Commissioner Mr. Harold W. Furchtgott-Roth. While I realize that XM or Sirius had supported his article, I believe that his moral and ethical background in heading your independent agency should put him above the actions conducted by the NAB. To think, or even imply otherwise, would certainly cast a shadow over the objectivity and independence of the FCC as an organization.

On the other hand I have seen several articles supporting the merger by organizations representing the people e.g., the National Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), the National Council of Women's Organizations (NWCOW), the League of Rural Voters (LRV), the American's for Tax Reform (ATR) and the 60 Plus Association. Until the opponents of the merger supported by the NAB can provide similar grass roots support I feel that the FCC should stand steadfast in their independence and objectivity and support the merger.

Congress should let the FCC do their job. It would be disconcerting to the public to think that the FCC would cave in to Congressional pressure. The FCC should support the people, not the politicians and their lobbyists, and provide them what they desire.

In making your decision, I think it would be wise to support the merger, which reflects the "following of the people", rather than to deny the merger, which reflects the NAB and their lobbyists, which is "following the money". Thank you